

20. The Book of Psalms 15:1-5

A Royal Invitation

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(10-5-25)

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Psalms 15 is another psalm of David:

Psalms 15:1–5 (NKJV)

¹ Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? ² He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; ³ He *who* does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He *who* swears to his own hurt and does not change; ⁵ He *who* does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these *things* shall never be moved.

On September 17th, 2025, President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump attended a lavish state banquet at Windsor Castle at the invitation of the King Charles III.

If you caught any of it on the 'telly', you'll agree it was quite an affair attended by 160 guests, including members of the royal family, various heads of state, diplomats, business CEO's and other dignitaries from around the world were in attendance.

One of these formal English banquets is typically held in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace (the residence of the King) but since it's undergoing renovations the royal banquet on the 17th of September, hosting our President and First Lady was held in St. George's Hall at Windsor Castle.

I have to admit the pomp and circumstance of the event was breathtaking! The table sat 160 guests and seemed to go on and on—almost endlessly. The formal place settings of gold, the exquisite flower arrangements that adorned the table from one end to the other—I've never seen anything like it!

From what I understand, the planning that goes into one of these royal events is meticulous, extensive and starts months in advance. Every detail is reviewed and approved by the King (or Queen)—everything from the menu to the seating arrangements. A team of staff sets the table using the extensive royal silver-gilt collection (including candelabra), with every detail measured to military precision.

In case you're wondering what '*silver-gilt*' is—it is silver of the highest quality coated with a thin layer of gold.

One of these formal banquets is so special and carries such weight that the invitation issued by the King or Queen is referred to as a "*command*" meaning that "*His or Her Majesty has 'commanded' your presence.*" Of course, a formal invitation is required to attend such a royal banquet—anyone not having an invitation (and tries to 'crash' the event) is promptly (and not too gently) escorted out and no doubt put under arrest!

The dress code is rigidly adhered to mandating that all guests in attendance have to be properly dressed for the occasion—only special formal wear—nothing casual is allowed. And finally, in case you were wondering what was served, the menu included:

Starter: *Hampshire watercress panna cotta*

Main course: *Organic Norfolk chicken ballotine* (a deboned chicken—often just the legs and thighs, but sometimes a whole chicken, that is filled with stuffing, rolled, and then roasted, poached, or braised).

Dessert: *Vanilla ice cream bombe with Kentish raspberry sorbet.*

So, the food was exquisite! Alright, why am I bringing all of this up?

Well, you may not realize it but in Psalm 15 David is actually telling us the requirements for coming to the King's house as His invited guest— **"Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?" (verse 1)**

Of course, David wrote this psalm *before* the Temple—which his son Solomon would eventually build. So, before the Temple, people would go to the *Tabernacle* to 'visit' and worship God. The Tabernacle (sometimes referred to as the 'tent of meeting') and later the Temple were both considered the '*House of the LORD*'—and both (at different times) sat on top of Mt. Moriah—the **"holy hill."**

And so, Psalm 15 is all about coming into the house of the LORD to have fellowship with Him—which is why I'm calling this message, *"A Royal Invitation."*

You see, first of all, no one is allowed to come into the house of the Lord without being invited. Of course, anyone can go into a church (which many call the '*house of God*')—but with many churches it isn't the house of the Lord, because Jesus isn't even there—

Revelation 3:20 (NLT)

²⁰ "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

Actually, the Temple (house) of God today isn't a building—it is the heart of every true child of God.

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

¹⁷ ... the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

I. The Invitation

Fellowship with God starts with an invitation (a royal invitation) to officially make your heart His home—His holy Temple. No one may come into God's presence and have fellowship with Him without a formal invitation.

So how does a person receive (and then accept) this invitation? Well, fortunately, He extended it to the whole human race when His Son, Jesus Christ, died on Calvary's Cross to pay for our sins.

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

John 12:32 (NKJV)

³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself [*a formal invitation from the King of kings to all the people of the earth*]."

Understand that, unlike the King of England's *'command'* to attend his royal banquet, God never *'commands'* us to be saved or to have fellowship with Him—He only invites and whether we accept or decline is up to us.

Ultimately, this invitation to come to God's house involves more than just a visit—it's an invitation to live with Him there forever as a member of His family (the royal family) in heaven—

Psalm 23:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Psalm 15:1 (AMP)

¹ LORD, WHO shall dwell [temporarily] in Your tabernacle? Who shall dwell [permanently] on Your holy hill?

II. The Proper Attire

Does God require a certain dress code to come to Him and have fellowship with Him? Yes, you must be clothed with the royal robe of Christ's righteousness—which He provides when you put your faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus gave a parable in Matthew 22 of this day when God invites all to His Son's Kingdom wedding feast—symbolized by believing in Jesus and receiving His righteousness as the *"wedding garment"* for salvation. He proceeds to tell us that many will refuse His gracious invitation or will come to church but refuse to put on Christ's righteousness:

Matthew 22:1–14 (NLT)

¹ Jesus also told them other parables. He said, ² "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. ³ When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come! ⁴ "So he sent other servants to tell them, 'The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!' ⁵ But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. ⁶ Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them. ⁷ "The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. ⁸ And he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor. ⁹ Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.' ¹⁰ So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ "But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. ¹² 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply. ¹³ Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ "For many are called, but few are chosen."

At first glance this seems to be utterly unfair of the king. I mean to invite people from off the street to come to a wedding feast on the spur of the moment and then punish a man who couldn't afford the proper attire by having him cast out in judgment—how unfair is that?!

That is until you realize that in those days the wedding garment was provided by the host so that everybody was properly attired, and the poor did not feel conspicuous—this was especially true at a royal wedding feast.

- It wasn't that this man didn't *own* a proper wedding garment—it was that he *refused* to wear the one the king had *provided*.

What is Jesus teaching here? He is talking about judgment day when many people who came to church at the invitation of another Christian and remained as a member of that church have to stand before the King.

Even though God offered them the proper wedding attire (to exchange their filthy robes of self-righteousness for the perfect robes of Christ's righteousness) they refused thinking they were 'good' enough—and will be cast out of God's Kingdom into the outer darkness of hell.

Now practically speaking, to enter into God's presence every day as Christians, we must put on the 'proper attire'—what the NT calls the '**new man**.'

Ephesians 4:17–32 (NKJV)

¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you **put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*" for we are members of one another. ²⁶ "*Be angry, and do not sin*": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 3:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ But now you yourselves are to **put off** all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have **put off the old man with his deeds,** ¹⁰ **and have put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

1 Corinthians 6:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you,** whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Peter 1:13–16 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as in your ignorance*; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy.**"

Look, we can't do anything to get rid of the old fallen nature we inherited from Adam—it will be with us until we die or are raptured. Before we received Jesus as our Savior and He made us a new creation with a new nature—we '*clothed*' ourselves in the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).

We could say that the works of the flesh were the '*prison clothes*' of the old life of bondage to sin. But when Jesus saved us, He delivered us from bondage to Satan and sin and set us free.

But not only that, He made us new creations and has invited us (as often as we want) to come into His presence—but understand we are coming into the presence of the King of kings, and He expects us to dress the part.

He expects us to put on the clothes of the new man (a righteous and holy life)—which is exactly what David is talking about in Psalm 15—

Psalm 15:1-5 (NLT)

¹ Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?

² **Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.** ³ **Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.** ⁴ **Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises even when it hurts.** ⁵ **Those who lend money without charging interest, and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever.**

Psalm 24:3–4 (NKJV)

³ Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

III. The Menu

One final thing—the menu.

- *What is the food that God feeds those who come to Him to have fellowship with Him?*
- *What is the food of the Kingdom of God?*
- *What's on the menu?*

Well, Jesus not only told us what our spiritual food is—He emphasized the importance of it when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness—

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*’”

Man is both physical and spiritual, which is why spiritual food is just as important as physical nourishment.

This spiritual food is “every word that comes from the mouth of God”—one author expands on this by saying—

“The Bible often speaks of the spiritual food we need: God’s Word provides milk (1 Peter 2:2); it is meat (1 Corinthians 3:2) and bread (Deuteronomy 8:3; Job 23:12); and it is sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103). The prophet Jeremiah wrote, “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty” (Jeremiah 15:16). Scripture’s use of food metaphors demonstrates the

importance of ingesting God's Word, of making it a part of us. Scripture is not something merely to study or read but to be "eaten" by God's people. We read the Word, but we then pause to "chew on it" a while, meditating and reflecting on the meaning and application of what we've read (see Psalms 1:1–3)."

Listen, even though Jesus said that *'eating'* the Word of God is important—He went on to say that obeying what God has said is like *'digesting'* what you have eaten so that it becomes a part of you—

John 4:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

John 6:30–35 (NKJV)

³⁰ Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?" ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, *'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'* ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." ³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Jesus would go on to clarify that He wasn't talking about literal bread—but spiritual *'bread'*—in other words Himself as being essential for eternal life!

- I think it's significant that Jesus called Himself *'bread'* (John 6), and *'water'* (John 4) when offering people to come to Him for salvation.

You see, bread and water are *staples* for life that everyone on planet earth has access to (except for drought and famine conditions).

If He would have said, *"I am the caviar and fine-wine of life"*—that would have limited Him to a select few while making eternal life inaccessible to most of the people in the world.

When it comes to a person receiving eternal life, Jesus wanted us to know that it is available to anyone who wants it. Whether they are rich or poor, slave or free—whether they have lived a moral life or a sinful life—Jesus invites all to come to Him to be saved!

**Salvation is available for and attainable by every human being
because it's a *gift* we receive by faith
and not a *reward* we earn through
our hard work, good deeds and religious observances.**

When Jesus offered people salvation in John 6—they thought that eternal life was something they had to *'earn'* through hard work (their Judaism taught them that)—*"What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"* (John 6:28) To which Jesus replied—*"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."* (John 6:29)

John 6:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst [*shall never hunger and thirst in their soul—will be satisfied*].

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Salvation is not a reward you earn—
it's a gift you receive—
a gift you receive into your heart by faith.

When you do, the Holy Spirit moves inside and gives you a new heart, a new nature and the gift of eternal life. When that happens, your life begins to change from the inside out—even as Jesus said, *"Cleanse the inside of the cup and it will overflow and cleanse the outside also."* (Matthew 23:26)

You will know something has changed inwardly by what is changing outwardly.

Let's read Psalm 15 one more time with this in mind—

Psalm 15:1-5 (NLT)

¹ Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?

² **Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.** ³ **Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.** ⁴ **Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises even when it hurts.** ⁵ **Those who lend money without charging interest, and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever.**

Listen, and make no mistake about it—everything that David mentions here—everything he says is essential for having fellowship with God.

Everything on this list of essential traits that make a person worthy to approach God and have fellowship with Him—are all traits (fruit) of a new life in Christ.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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